

The United States and Russia in the Pacific.

The state of affairs in the Pacific, says the N. Y. Courier and Enquirer correspondent from Washington, is becoming interesting. If the Russian war do not terminate fortunately for the allies, it is apparent that two great maritime powers will be prepared to contend for the supremacy of that ocean, namely, the United States and Russia. The defeat of the British and French fleets at Petropolski shows the superior force of the Russians. The naval operations of the war in Europe prove the Russians to be most excellent artillerymen. They have nowhere suffered a reverse at sea. Should the fortunes of the allies yield to the advancing power of this formidable nation, it is obvious that Great Britain would willingly cede to us, for a moderate compensation, all her possessions on the northwest coast. Would Russia allow us peacefully to acquire this important addition of territory, bringing us to the very gates of her empire? It is not probable.—Twenty years have not elapsed since she had flourishing settlements in California. From this point d'appui of her policy against Mexico, she was compelled to retreat by the superior energy and intelligence of the American allies of the latter country. Before the breaking out of the war, Russia had a powerful fleet, with which, it was believed, a descent upon the Sandwich Islands was meditated. Relieved from service against the allies, this same fleet, greatly re-enforced, will be available for the same object, and before we can agree upon the terms of annexation, Honolulu may salute a Governor dispatched from St. Petersburg. But for the war, it is by no means probable that Com. Perry would have been permitted to open a trade with Japan for American vessels.—A Russian expedition was then on its way to that empire to represent the advantages of Russian connections. Our general policy dictates to us a rigid neutrality; our interests, as well as our attachment to constitutional freedom, should direct our sympathies against the party to this struggle in the East who provoked the war by his aggressions, and continues it for purposes of unbounded ambition.

A Comet.

Within the next few years there will be a return of that great luminary which, in 1556, caused Charles V. to abdicate his crown, and Pope Calixtus II. to excommunicate in the fellowship with the Turk and the Devil.—Is it not singular that the same comet may probably upon his return, find Christianity arrayed upon the side of the excommunicated Mahomedan? Tempora mutantur, &c.

M. Babinet, a member of the French Academy of Sciences, has furnished some interesting details in relation to this splendid comet, which is the largest ever described by ancient and modern observers. Its periodical course is about three centuries. It was seen in 104, 392, 683, 972, 1214, 1556, and is always described as shining with an extraordinary brightness. Astronomers agreed in announcing its return for 1848; but failing to keep its engagement, it is now, using a quaint expression of M. Babinet, "living on its former brilliant reputation," until Borne re-assured the mourning world of science, who had already put crapes round their telescopes, that it was neither lost or stolen, but only retarded by some attractive influences. Possibly the dashing stranger may have deviated from his path to coquet with some hoyden moon or widowed planet. Under these circumstances the precise time of the return of the interesting stranger is somewhat uncertain, though his expectant admirers predict that it will take place within the next two years. Whenever this phenomenon occurs, which in an age of ignorance and superstition when the meteor would have excited wonder, and attracted the gaze of nations, the scientific will be on the alert and draw important deductions for the advancement of knowledge from an event which formerly would have thrown mankind into an agony of fear.—[Chicago Times.

Jesse D. Bright, the new president of the senate, is a citizen of Indiana, but owns a large farm and a number of slaves in Kentucky.

For the Journal.

A Reminiscence.—BY STELLIE.

It was morning—a Monday morning in starry, cold December. A few scattering snow flakes were performing graceful evolutions through the air, and winding their way to the earth, but there was nothing terrific in the sight, and despite the storm we were a band of happy scholars. Our naturally buoyant spirits were raised still higher by anticipations of the three succeeding months, for this was the first day of our winter school. Merrily we chatted along, rehearsing with childish simplicity our various adventures since we threw aside the bat and ball, the broken china and the skipping rope, and parted on that old play-ground. What wonderful exploits and unheard of adventures were recounted!

But there was one thing which affected our hearts and saddened our faces when mention was made of it, children as we were. Near by the school house, pale and emaciated and fading under the hand of disease, was a fair-haired girl just entering her fourth year. The summer preceding she had a seat in the school room, a place on the play-ground and a share in our childish sports, and we all loved her; but now her place was vacant or filled by another, and we missed her pleasant face and joyous shout in our group.

Time passed on, leaving a visible impress on the form of the gentle sufferer. The skill of physicians could not avail, death would not accept a ransom, her voice grew more faint, her pulse beat slower and her brow waxed paler. Three days elapsed, and it was evening. Kind neighbors assembled in that sick room to administer consolation to the bereaved or cordials to the dying—both alike vain. The lamp of life was fast going out and soon it ceased to burn. In that same school room where we had met so joyously the first of the week, we were again assembled, but oh how changed! There stood the coffin encasing the loved one, "not dead but gone before;" instead of the school-boy's merry shout might be heard stifled sobs from aching hearts; in the place of the teacher, stood the minister of God. The service ended and a train, sable and slow-paced, moved toward the village graveyard, and there were deposited the remains of our little playmate. A plain marble slab marks the sacred spot, and on it is engraved the name of my SISTER.

Sleep, sister, sleep;
Since thou wert here, long years have flown.
And o'er thy grave tall grass hath grown,
And rough winds sweep
Above thy head.
Sleep, sister, sleep;
The toils of life with thee are o'er,
The storms of life distract no more,
And angels keep
Their watch o'er thee.
Sleep, sleep, sleep;
From pain set free, thy angel form
Is anchor'd safe from earthly storm;
We will not weep
For one so blest.

At Home, Dec. 9, 1854.

IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.—The Washington Star publishes the following extract of a letter from a distinguished Frenchman, dated Paris, Nov. 20:

"Lord Palmerston and Louis Napoleon have been almost inseparable since the former alighted at the Hotel Windsor. Their interviews have resulted in a decision to unfurl the standard of Polish, Hungarian and Italian nationality, if Prussia and Austria hesitate longer to declare unequivocally against the Czar. The probability is that neither the one nor the other will consent to do this, in which case all Europe will be in arms before spring."

HEAVY VERDICT.—The case of Doolittle & Chamberlain against the New Albany and Salem railroad company, was decided on Thursday, the jury returning a verdict for \$25,000 in favor of the plaintiffs.—[Dayton Gazette.

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